



HIKING – FOREST SERVICE – ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NATIONAL FOREST – San Juan RANGER DISTRICT - Columbine
Updated: February, 2003



CUNNINGHAM GULCH TRAIL #502

Length: 2.5 miles (4.0 km.)

Recommended Season

Spring Summer Fall Winter
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Use: Medium

Difficulty: Most difficult

USGS Map (s): Howardsville

Starting Elevation: 10,800'
End of Cunningham Gulch Rd.

Ending Elevation: 12,200'
Junction with Continental Divide Trail

Recommended Season: Summer/Fall

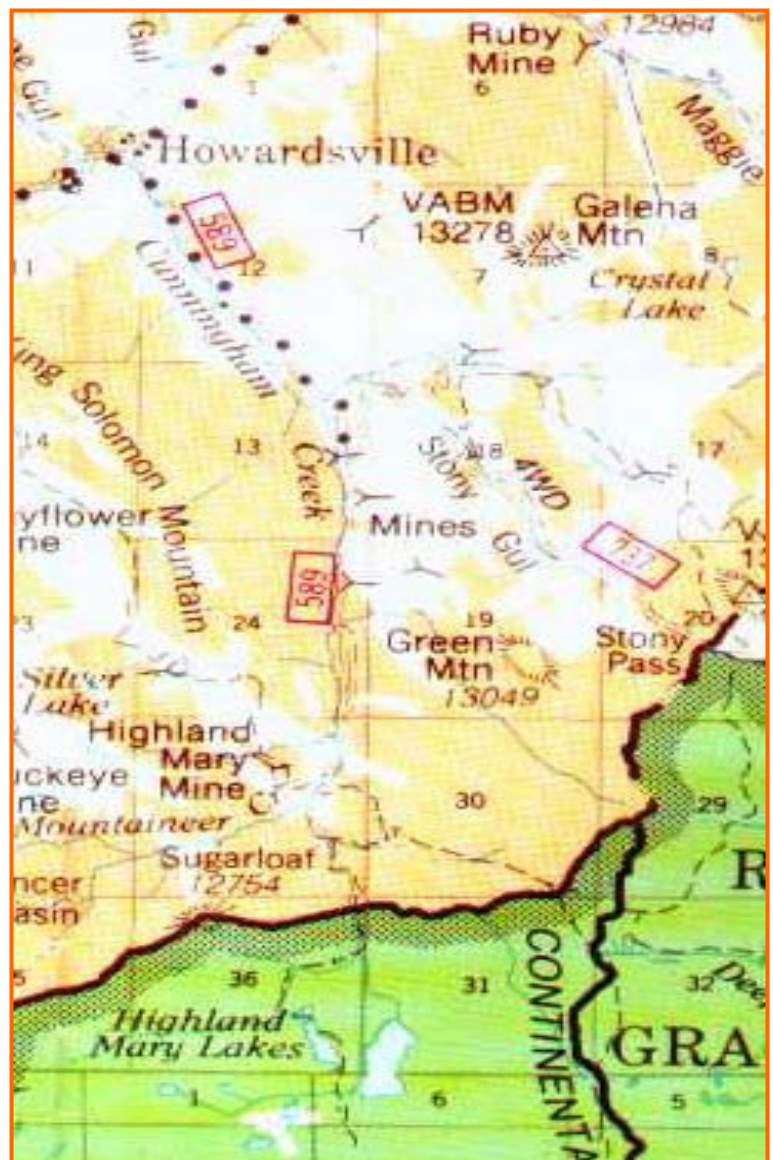
Access: #1: Follow U.S. 550 north to Silverton. Continue north through the town of Silverton on FDR #586 toward Howardsville, about 3 miles. Turn onto the Cunningham Gulch Road, FDR #589 and follow it to the trailhead. 2WD vehicles may not be able to drive the last ¾ mile of the road.

Access #2: Via the Continental Divide Trail. Please refer to the descriptions of sections of this trail for a complete listing of access points to the Continental Divide Trail on the Columbine Ranger District.

Attractions & Considerations:

This trail is the shortest route available to the Continental Divide on this Ranger District. It offers excellent opportunities for rock hunting, fishing, and observing high-country flora and fauna. August is the best month to observe wildflowers blooming. The Continental Divide has excellent views and opportunities for photography, especially of the Grenadier Mountains, which are south of the Continental Divide Trail. Most of this hike is above timberline, and acclimation to the elevation should be taken into account. Water availability should not be a problem, but all water should be filtered, to avoid problems with Giardia.

12500				
12000				
11500				
11000				
10500				
10000				
Feet	1	2	3	4
Miles				



Scan of the San Juan National Forest Map

Forest Service maps and other publications are available at the Public Lands Center, in the Durango Tech Center, ½ mile west of Durango off Highway 160, or by calling (970) 247-4874.

www.sjma.org